normal dialing procedure applies and extra four digits are not to be dialed by the subscriber. Subscriber's pre-recorded choice of NLDO/ILDO is automatically exercised by the Access Provider's switch/network.

Presently the choice of NLD or ILD operator is made by the Access Providers and Tariffs for the Outgoing National and International Long Distance calls are also decided by Access Providers. Once the carrier selection is implemented,subscribers can have the choice of selecting their ILD or NLD service providers. In this scenario NLD/ILD operator can offer lower tariffs directly to subscriber.

(b) and (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 24th July, 2002 had issued direction regarding the implementation of Call by Call and Carrier-Pre selection. For level playing field considerations, it was not correct for the TRAI to force Carrier Selection implementation by all others with the exception of BSNL.

Further, system modification in the Switches of Access Providers is required to enable them to implement Carrier Selection for NLD and ILD Services in their networks. The setup cost required for the upgradation of switches needs to be contributed by NLDOs and ILDOs. Since this up-gradation cost was on higher side, NLDO/ILDOs did not come forward towards the payment of their contribution of upgradation costs when some of the Access Providers demanded set up cost payments.

To review the current status on readiness of implementation of Carrier Access Code/Carrier Pre-Selection and to decide further necessary course of action, TRAI has already issued letters to all service providers on 3rd November, 2005 regarding status of implementation of carrier selection in their respective network.

On the request of some of the service providers last date for submission of response had been extended and the reply from some of the operators is still pending.

(d) and (e) Response from few service providers on the current status of readiness is still awaited. However, as per a communication received from COAI GSM service providers need to upgrade their switches and additional cost could be involved in the implementation of CAC/CPS.

Waiving of inter-connecting charges

3214. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Government

to waive inter-connectivity charges for e-Governance applications for e-Seva and other Government projects, in view of BSNL having raised a demand for payment of additional inter-connection charges in addition to leased lines cost by which e-Seva services would be adversely affected and functioning of e-Seva by Andhra Pradesh Government would become economically unviable;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not possible for BSNL to agree to the request of Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) Inter connection Charges are statutory charges and cannot be waived off. Further, any concession in leased line cost has to be across the board and BSNL did not find it feasible.

Upgradation of post offices in Tamil Nadu

3215. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATHCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu proposed to be upgraded during this financial year, location-wise; and

(b) the number out of the above on which work has already been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No target has been fixed for upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu during this financial year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Shortage of staff in Post Offices

3216. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of clerical staff, postmen and other junior supporting staff in the post offices in Delhi;